

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for backing up information, comprising:
 2 receiving by a data-directing device data to be backed up, the data-directing
 3 device being communicatively coupled to a data-caching device and to a
 4 first backup storage device;
 5 storing the received data by the data-caching device;
 6 storing the received data by the first backup storage device;
 7 configuring a switch to communicatively couple the data-directing device to a
 8 second backup storage device responsive to a backup operation failure;
 9 and
 10 transferring data stored by the data-caching device to the second backup storage
 11 device via the data-directing device.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the switch is a fibre channel switch.

- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the backup storage devices are storage medium
 2 drives.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the received data is stored on a storage medium by the
 2 backup storage device.

- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the received data by the data-caching device
 2 and storing the received data by the first backup storage device are performed
 3 substantially simultaneously.

- 1 6. A method for backing up information, comprising:
2 receiving by a first data-directing device data to be backed up, the first data-
3 directing device being communicatively coupled to a first data-caching
4 device and to a first backup storage device;
5 storing the received data by the first data-caching device;
6 storing the received data by the first backup storage device;
7 configuring a switch to communicatively couple the first data-caching device to a
8 second data-directing device responsive to a backup operation failure; and
9 transferring data stored by the first data-caching device to a second backup storage
10 device via the second data-directing device.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the switch is a fibre channel switch.
- 1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the backup storage devices are storage medium
2 drives.
- 1 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the received data is stored on a storage medium by the
2 first backup storage device.
- 1 10. The method of claim 6, wherein storing the received data by the first data-caching
2 device and storing the received data by the first backup storage device are performed
3 substantially simultaneously.

- 1 11. A system for backing up information, comprising:
2 a data-directing device configured to receive data to be backed up;
3 a first backup storage device that is communicatively coupled to the data-directing
4 device and that is configured to store the received data;
5 a data-caching device that is coupled to the data-directing device and that is
6 configured to store the received data;
7 a switch that is configured to communicatively couple the data-directing device to
8 a second backup storage device responsive to a backup operation failure,
9 wherein data stored in the data-caching device is transferred to the second
10 backup storage device via the data-directing device responsive to the
11 backup operation failure.
- 1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein the switch is a fibre channel switch.
- 1 13. The system of claim 11, wherein the backup storage devices are storage medium
2 drives.
- 1 14. The system of claim 11, wherein the received data is stored on a storage medium by
2 the first backup storage device.
- 1 15. The system of claim 11, wherein storing the received data by the data-caching device
2 and storing the received data by the first backup storage device are performed
3 substantially simultaneously.

- 1 16. A system for backing up information, comprising:
2 a first data-directing device configured to receive data to be backed up;
3 a first backup storage device that is communicatively coupled to the first data-
4 directing device and that is configured to store the received data;
5 a data-caching device that is coupled to the first data-directing device and that is
6 configured to store the received data;
7 a switch that is configured to communicatively couple a second data-directing
8 device to the first data-caching device responsive to a backup operation
9 failure, wherein data stored in the first data-caching device is transferred to
10 a second backup storage device via the second data-directing device
11 responsive to the backup operation failure.

- 1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the switch is a fibre channel switch.

- 1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the backup storage devices are storage medium
2 drives.

- 1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the received data is stored on a storage medium by
2 the first backup storage device.

- 1 20. The system of claim 16, wherein storing the received data by the first data-caching
2 device and storing the received data by the first backup storage device are performed
3 substantially simultaneously.